

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
Alexandria Division

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)	
)	
v.)	CRIMINAL NO.
)	
SHAWN A. HOFFMAN)	

CRIMINAL INFORMATION

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHARGES THAT:

1. From in or about December 2001 through in or about January, 2003, in the Eastern District of Virginia, and elsewhere, SHAWN A. HOFFMAN, the defendant herein, knowingly devised and intended to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud various victims and to obtain property of victims by means of false and fraudulent representations, pretenses and promises.

2. It was part of said scheme that the defendant contacted individuals selling merchandise on the internet by means of email. The defendant would communicate a false identity, and would in some cases direct the seller to a fraudulent internet escrow service. After receiving the merchandise the defendant would intentionally not pay the seller, and in many cases resell the merchandise.

3. For the purpose of executing the aforementioned scheme and artifice to defraud, the defendant did knowingly transmit and willfully caused to be transmitted by means of wire communication in interstate commerce the following:

An email message sent by the defendant from a computer in Pennsylvania to Maha Kattan in McClean, Virginia on December 17, 2002.

(All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.)

Respectfully Submitted,

PAUL J. McNULTY
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

By:

Robert W. Wiechering
Assistant United States Attorney